

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ( ISO ) W  
-----003254 292256Z /43

R 291743Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0784  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMCONSUL BELFAST  
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E. O. 11652:NA  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK  
SUBJECT: LABOR'S RIGHT CONTINUES ITS DOMINATION OF PLP

REF: LONDON 19969 /(76)

SUMMARY: PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) MODERATES,  
FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, DOMINATED BACKBENCH  
LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS. RIGHT-WING PLP CHAIRMAN  
CLEDWYN HUGHES WAS REELECTED UNOPPOSED, AND THE  
REMAINING SIX LEADERSHIP POSTS ALL WENT TO MODERATES  
OR RIGHT-WINGERS. WHILE LABOR'S RIGHT/LEFT CLEAVAGE  
REMAINED EVIDENT, THE RANCOR AND BITTERNESS THAT  
CHARACTERIZED LAST YEAR'S PLP ELECTIONS WERE ABSENT.  
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END SUMMARY.

1. THE RECENTLY COMPLETED PLP BACKBENCH LEADERSHIP  
ELECTIONS CONFIRMED THE CONTINUING ASCENDENCY OF LABOR /  
MODERATES IN PARLIAMENT. FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE  
YEAR, THE PLP ELECTED RIGHT-WINGER CLEDWYN HUGHES AS  
CHAIRMAN. HE WAS UNOPPOSED. VICE CHAIRMAN FRED

WILLEY WAS RE-ELECTED BY A WIDE MARGIN. THE REMAINING FIVE PLP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WERE ALSO FILLED BY INCUMBENT RIGHT-WINGERS AND MODERATES (REFTEL). THE OTHERS, IN ORDER OF FINISH, ARE: JOHN CARTWRIGHT, NEC MEMBER AND NEWLY-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE RIGHT-WING MANIFESTO GROUP; SIDNEY IRVING, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE MANIFESTO GROUP; PHILIP WHITEHEAD, LEADING MANIFESTOITE; THOMAS URWIN, LEADER OF THE PLP'S TRADE UNION GROUP AND A RIGHT-WINGER; AND JACK ASHLEY, A MODERATE NEC MEMBER.

2. THE LEFT-WING TRIBUNE GROUP, WHICH FIELDDED A STRONG SLATE LAST YEAR AND CONTESTED THE ELECTIONS VIGOROUSLY, PUT FORWARD A MEDIOCRE GROUP OF CANDIDATES THIS TIME AROUND. NOR WAS THE CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR AS ACTIVE OR BITTERLY CONTESTED AS THAT OF LAST YEAR, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING LABOR'S REDISCOVERED SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S DISPLEASURE OVER THE PARTISAN EXCESSES OF THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.

3. LAST YEAR TWO OF THE TRIBUNE'S BRIGHTEST STARS, NEIL KINNOCK AND NORMAN BUCHAN, JUST MISSED WINNING SEATS ON THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE. THEY DID NOT STAND THIS YEAR, AND THE RUNNERS UP WERE MODERATE LEFTISTS, IOAN EVANS AND LAURIE PAVITT. CRUSTY PACIFIST FRANK ALLAUN, A PERENNIAL CANDIDATE, WAS THE TRIBUNITES' STRONGEST RUNNER, FINISHING IN EIGHTH

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PLACE FOR ONE OF THE FIVE COMMITTEE SLOTS.

BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 LONDON 19969  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** LABOR'S RIGHT CONTINUES ITS DOMINATION OF PLP  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, UK, PLP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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